INFORMATION LETTER

Not for Publication — NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION — For Members Only

No. 1677 — Washington, D. C. — April 12, 1958

USDA Continues Study of Role of Research Advisory Groups

The USDA is studying the basic purposes and activities of its research advisory committees with a view to enabling the advisory groups to study existing research projects more thoroughly.

The review of the research advisory committee operations was undertaken by USDA last year in response to sharp criticism by the House Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee (see INFORMATION LETTER of May 18, 1957, page 184).

The Subcommittee said last year that the advisory committees are being asked to consider new research projects which always involve requests for more appropriations, instead of "making a thorough and continuing review of existing research projects which might be improved or eliminated."

USDA reported to the Subcommittee earlier this year, during hearings on the 1959 appropriation bill, that "the Agricultural Research Policy Committee, assisted by two consultants, is conducting a study of activities of all the committees" and as part of this study a Policy Committee member attended each of the 1957-58 annual advisory committee meetings.

Representative Whitten (Miss.), chairman of the Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee, commented that from his personal observations advisory committee members "always had a feeling of frustration" when attempting to grasp a complex problem during their limited stay in Washington. He suggested that more time should be allotted to writing about these problems and soliciting written recommendations and that additional effort should be devoted to studying current research work, rather than determining what additional amounts of money to request from Congress.

The USDA witness, Assistant Secretary Ervin L. Peterson, stated that "basically the backlog funds which would be required to meet the propositions which these committees have made stem from the fact that there are such a multiplicity of unanswered problems that producers, processors and distributors all have in the total broad area of agriculture.

"I would be inclined to interpret the size of that backlog as indicating the fact that agriculture generally has not kept up or achieved a research level comparable with other lines of economic activity," Mr. Peterson said.

C.&T.R. Committee Studying Canned Foods Month Plans

Discussion of N.C.A. participation in the Canned Foods Month promotion proposed for September by the California Centenary Merchandising Committee is on the agenda of the N.C.A. Consumer and Trade Relations Committee for its meeting during the spring sessions of the Board of Directors.

Two years ago the C.&T.R. Committee consdered an annual canned foods month and discussed it with state secretaries, but at the time a majority of them opposed this type of promotion.

Since then, arising from their 1958 Centenary observance of the first canning of foods in California, the Canners League of California has advocated a national promotion of a Canned Foods Month. Money has been appropriated ($40,000) by California canners and suppliers, and a promotion office has been established, headed by a professional public relations man, Howard Eaton. Letters have gone out to all canned foods associations—national, state, regional, commodity—requesting them to tie into the campaign, as well as press releases to the canned foods trade publications.

Approaches have been made to steel and container companies for participation and some have already outlined programs. Mr. Eaton has called on N.C.A. and Dudley-Anderson-Yutzy, the public relations counsel on the Consumer and Trade Relations Program, for editorial material required for the promotion and this material is being furnished. This has been a consistent N.C.A. policy with regard to all canned foods promotions during the past years, from whatever source.

Members of the C.&T.R. Committee are now studying an outline of the current proposal that executives of all canning associations tie-in to the 1958 Canned Foods Month campaign, along with a progress report of the first four months of the promotion, preparatory to decisions as to what additional participation N.C.A. will undertake.

Country Life Commission

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Country Life Commission, whose recommendations in 1909 led to many federal programs affecting agricultural and rural life, legislation has been introduced providing for the creation of a new commission to study the needs of country living.

A Country Life Commission was appointed by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908 and among its recommendations, subsequently incorporated in legislation, were county agricultural agents, federal land banks, soil conservation and reforestation, and federal aid to highways.

Bills providing for the creation of a new Country Life Commission and a two-year study have been introduced by Senators Flanders (Vt.) and Cooper and Morton (Ky.) as S. 3596 and by Representative Hays (Ark.) as H. R. 11844 and referred to the Agriculture Committees.

As explained by Senator Flanders, when he introduced the bill in the Senate, "The Commission would make broad recommendations concerning the total development of country life, looking toward the needs of the next 50 years."

The new Country Life Commission would be composed of 25 members, of whom 15 would be appointed from public life by the President and 5 each by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.

Snap Beans for Processing

The acreage to be planted to snap beans for processing in 1958 is placed by the Crop Reporting Board of USDA at 156,360 acres, 1 percent below last year's total but 17 percent above average.

If yields approximate the average of the last three years, the 1958 acreage could produce about 265,000 tons for canning and 90,000 tons for freezing. This compares with last year's production of 273,840 tons for canning and 85,110 tons for freezing.

Changes in acreage in the Eastern and Middle West states are mixed but there is a net reduction of about 2 percent. However, in the West, where the principal variety is Blue Lakes, the acreage indicated for 1958 is 7 percent larger than that planted last year.

The acreage intended for freezing is up 4 percent from last year, with increases in prospect in almost all areas. The acreage in line for canning is down 2 percent. Reductions, though modest, are general in the Midwest and East and are partially offset by an increase in beans for canning in the Western states.

State	10-year ave. 1947–56	1957	1958 Prospective	Percent change from 1957
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	
Maine	2,600	2,200	2,000	− 9
N. Y.	29,300	38,000	34,000	−11
Pa.	5,100	6,300	7,500	+19
Mich.	6,900	6,800	6,600	− 3
Wis.	13,800	19,900	19,000	− 5
Del.	2,400	3,200	4,000	+25
Md.	11,000	9,700	9,900	+ 2
Va.	3,900	3,800	4,300	+13
N. C.	2,200	3,600	3,600	....
S. C.	1,100	900	800	−11
Fla.	9,800	12,500	10,800	−14
Tenn.	5,400	6,400	8,400	+31
Ark.	6,000	3,500	3,200	− 9
La.	940	800	650	−19
Okla.	3,500	3,000	2,800	− 7
Texas	7,300	9,500	9,500	....
Colo.	1,500	1,500	1,700	+13
Wash.	2,400	2,000	2,300	+15
Ore.	7,600	10,800	11,200	+ 4
Calif.	2,300	3,000	3,200	+ 7
Other states [1].	8,300	10,130	10,910	+ 8
U. S. Total	133,200	157,530	156,360	− 1
For freezing	[2]34,300	34,000	35,380	+ 4
East and Central	.....	29,020	30,000	+ 3
West	.....	4,980	5,380	+ 8
For canning and other processing	[2]115,300	123,470	120,980	− 2
East and Central	.....	110,340	106,940	− 3
West	.....	13,130	14,040	+ 7

[1] Ala., Ga., Idaho, Ill., Ind., Iowa, Ky., Minn., Miss., Mo., Nebr., N. H., N. J., N. M., Ohio, Utah, Vt., and Wyo. [2] Three-year ave., 1954–56; estimates not available prior to 1954.

Sweet Corn for Processing

The acreage of sweet corn to be planted for processing in 1958 totals 400,460 acres, 13 percent less than last year's planted acreage and 16 percent below average, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA.

If yields are equal to the average of recent years, the 1958 acreage could produce a crop of about 1,300,000 tons, which would be 13 percent less than harvested last year and nearly a fourth below the record large 1956 crop.

The intended acreages for canning and for freezing are less than last year by 13 percent each. Reductions in sweet corn acreage are indicated for all states except Ohio, Delaware, and Maryland.

State	10-year ave. 1947–56	1957	1958 Prospective	Percent change from 1957
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	
Maine	8,600	5,000	3,500	−30
N. Y.	25,300	21,600	20,700	− 4
Pa.	12,400	12,500	9,300	−26
Ohio	13,800	6,300	6,300	....
Ind.	29,200	18,000	17,500	− 3
Ill.	65,200	62,500	54,000	−14
Wis.	105,500	119,000	103,000	−13
Minn.	88,100	100,000	82,500	−18
Iowa	28,600	19,300	9,500	−51
Del.	4,700	5,100	5,400	+ 6
Md.	35,200	28,400	30,600	+ 8
Idaho	9,900	11,000	10,800	− 2
Wash.	14,000	16,300	13,700	−16
Ore.	13,900	15,400	14,800	− 4
Other states [1].	22,700	20,460	18,800	− 8
U. S. Total	477,000	460,860	400,460	−13
For freezing	[2]65,400	66,700	57,950	−13
For canning and other processing	[2]409,300	394,160	342,510	−13

[1] Ark., Calif., Colo., La., Mich., Mont., Nebr., N. H., N. J., Okla., S. D., Tenn., Texas, Utah, Vt., Va., and Wyo. [2] Four-year ave., 1953–56; estimates not available prior to 1953.

Meeting of N.C.A. Directors, Council, and Committees

The midyear meeting of the N.C.A. Board of Directors, Administrative Council, and selected committees will be held at the Sheraton-Park Hotel, Washington, D. C., May 22-23.

N.C.A. will make hotel reservations for those who request them. Requests should be addressed to Mrs. Betty Dulin, National Canners Association, 1133 20th St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

Lima Beans for Processing

A reduction of 5 percent from last year's planted acreage of green lima beans for processing is in prospect for 1958, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA. Intentions reports place this season's crop at 90,330 acres, 5 percent below last year and 15 percent below average.

The acreage in prospect for canning is down 6 percent and the acreage in prospect for freezing is down 5 percent from last year.

Reductions in acreage from last year is reported in all important states except Delaware, Maryland, Michigan and Washington.

Following is the acreage in prospect at the present time, based on conditions as of April 1:

State	10-year ave. 1947–56	1957	1958 Prospective	Percent change from 1957
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	
N. Y.	3,500	1,720	1,600	− 7
Pa.	4,800	3,100	2,500	−19
Mich.	2,700	1,300	1,400	+ 8
Wis.	7,100	5,400	4,700	−13
Del.	21,600	17,800	18,700	+ 5
Md.	4,900	3,000	4,800	+60
Va.	4,600	2,600	1,400	−46
Wash.	1,600	720	850	+18
Calif.	23,100	31,900	25,500	−20
Other states [1].	32,200	27,800	28,880	+ 4
U. S. Total	106,000	95,340	90,330	− 5
For freezing	[2]68,800	65,330	62,250	− 5
Fordhooks	.....	28,030	22,400	−20
Baby limas	.....	37,300	39,850	+ 6
For canning and other processing	[2]40,000	30,010	28,080	− 6

[1] Ark., Colo., Idaho, Ill., Ind., Iowa, Kans., Minn., Mo., N. J., Ohio, Okla., Ore., Tenn., and Utah. [2] Five-year ave., 1952–56; estimates not available prior to 1952.

Cabbage for Kraut

The acreage of cabbage to be contracted for kraut in 1958 is expected to be about 9 percent more than last year but 10 percent below average, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA. This year's prospective contract acreage is 8,100 acres compared with 7,440 acres planted last year and the 1947-56 average of 9,000 acres.

Information is not available at the present time regarding the tonnage that kraut packers intend to purchase on the open market in 1958. The equivalent open market acreage last year represented about 37 percent of the total planted acreage and it averaged about 44 percent for the preceding 10-year period.

1957 Packs of Fish

The 1957 packs of canned fish and shellfish intended for human consumption totaled 644 million pounds, about 1½ percent less than the 654 million pounds packed in 1956, according to a report by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The 1957 production in the United States, Alaska, American Samoa, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico was valued at $300 million, a 4½ percent decline from the 1956 value of $314 million.

The packs of canned salmon, Pacific sardines, anchovies, alewives and shrimp declined notably from 1956, with the pack of Pacific sardines the third smallest since 1921. The pack of canned tuna reached a new record high, and 40 percent of the pack was canned from imported fish.

Following is a summary of 1957 packs of principal canned fish and shellfish, with comparisons:

Canned Product	1956	1957
	(*standard cases*)	
Tuna	11,834,015	11,903,090
Salmon	3,505,210	3,184,897
Maine sardines	2,231,441	2,266,356
Pacific sardines	754,734	497,756
Anchovies	612,302	440,247
Alewives	40,805	30,562
Mackerel	1,116,343	1,326,584
Clam products	1,857,997	1,948,507
Crab meat	124,667	154,514
Oysters	465,138	498,676
Shrimp	909,062	601,781

Poultry Used in Processing

Poultry used in canning and other processed foods during the first two months of 1958 totaled 45,144,000 pounds, 13 percent more than the 33,563,000 pounds used during the same period of 1957, according to a report by the Agricultural Marketing Service of USDA.

	Jan.–Feb. 1957	1958
	(*thousands of pounds*)	
Young chickens	3,503	4,917
Mature chickens	24,364	29,681
Turkeys	5,696	10,546
Other poultry	0	0
Total, Jan.–Feb.	33,563	45,144

Price Support for Dry Beans

USDA has announced the 1958-crop support prices for 11 classes of dry beans. The support rates will be 12 cents per hundredweight less than the 1957 rates for all classes and areas except for pinto beans in the State of Washington, for which an additional reduction of 10 cents is being made to reflect a location differential between Washington and Idaho.

Classes of dry beans included under price support are pinto, great northern, pea, and medium white, small white and flat small white, red kidney (including dark, light, and western), pink, small red, large lima, and baby lima beans. Support prices for 1958 beans range from $4.80 to $9.55 per hundredweight and are set to return to growers the national average support price of 68 percent of the February parity price of $9.09 per hundredweight.

As under past programs, beans will be supported through loans and purchase agreements which will be available from harvest time through January 31, 1959. The maturity dates for loans and agreements will be February 28, 1959, in Michigan, Pennsylvania and New York, and April 30, 1959, in all other states.

Nematode-Resistant Lima Bean

A new green-seeded lima bean variety, highly productive in root-knot nematode-infested soils, has been released by the USDA and the Oklahoma and Virginia Agricultural Experiment Stations for commercial production in 1958.

Known as "Nemagreen," the new variety is adapted to soils infested with the root-knot nematode, which severely reduces yields of non-resistant commercial varieties.

Seed of Nemagreen for 1958 plantings will be available through numerous seed companies. USDA said that stocks are adequate to meet demands of commercial growers in nematode-infested areas. The seed will not be distributed or sold by USDA or the state experiment stations.

The new variety is a cross of Early Thorogreen and the white-seeded Oklahoma 27 variety.

In field tests from coast to coast during the past five years, Nemagreen averaged somewhat lighter yields than non-resistant varieties on soil free of root-knot. But it has far surpassed the performance of green-seeded non-resistant limas on infested soils.

On such soils Nemagreen produced, in 125 trials, an average of 4,420 pounds of marketable pods per acre compared with 4,608 pounds for Early Thorogreen and 4,761 pounds for Clark's Bush.

On nematode-infested soils, however, yields of as much as 2,400 pounds of shelled beans per acre have been reported for the Nemagreen variety, compared with only 800 pounds of common susceptible varieties.

Labor Dept. Seeks Recruitment of Domestic Labor for Farms

Farm labor recruitment will be intensified and expanded this year in a major effort to effect the fullest use of the nation's domestic farm labor supply, provide jobs for unemployed workers, and curtail the use of foreign workers in agriculture.

A statement by Secretary of Labor Mitchell says:

"I have directed Assistant Secretary Newell Brown and Bureau of Employment Security Director Robert C. Goodwin not to approve employer requests for foreign workers where, through additional recruitment efforts of employers and the state employment services, domestic workers can be obtained to meet farm labor needs. Because of the current labor supply situation, employers will find workers available in areas which have not been sources of labor supply in recent years.

"I anticipate that in some areas the need for foreign workers can be eliminated. There will be areas, however, which will continue to need foreign workers to meet seasonal demands, and requests for such workers will be filled in accordance with approved procedures. Even in these areas it should be possible to effect some reduction in the number of foreign workers because of the increased number of available domestic workers. In all cases where foreign workers are brought into an area, the Department's policy of giving priority to qualified domestic farm workers for available farm jobs will be rigidly enforced."

At the request of the Secretary, the Bureau of Employment Security has been making a complete review of its procedures governing the employment of foreign workers in agriculture. The purpose of this review is to determine what new policies and programs are necessary to achieve the greatest use of domestic labor, according to the announcement.

The Bureau of Employment Security is asking the full cooperation of agricultural employers in holding down the number of imported farm workers, the Department said. The Bureau has written its agricultural advisory committee requesting its assistance. The Bureau has also asked all state employment security agencies to intensify their farm labor recruitment activities and to publicize existing farm job opportunities in urban areas in an effort to recruit unemployed workers with previous experience in farm work.

Wage-Hour Proposal on White Collar Exemption

The Wage and Hour Division proposes to amend the regulations that define what employees are covered by the executive, administrative, and professional exemptions of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Section 13(a)(1) of the Act provides an exemption from the wage and hour provisions for employees who qualify as executive or administrative personnel under the regulations of the Administrator. The regulations presently require that executive employees must be paid not less than $55 a week and that administrative employees must be paid not less than $75 a week. Under the proposed amendment these figures would be raised to $80 and $95, respectively.

Following is the text of salient portions of the notice of proposed rule making, as published in the *Federal Register* of April 5:

Wage and Hour Division
[29 CFR Part 541]

DEFINING AND DELIMITING THE TERMS "ANY EMPLOYEE EMPLOYED IN A BONA FIDE EXECUTIVE, ADMINISTRATIVE, PROFESSIONAL OR LOCAL RETAILING CAPACITY, OR IN THE CAPACITY OF OUTSIDE SALESMAN"

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING

* * *

Experience in administering these regulations, in light of changes in economic conditions which have taken place since these salary levels were established, particularly the widespread increases in wages and salaries, indicated that consideration be given to changes in the salary levels. Pursuant to notices published in the *Federal Register* (20 F. R. 8388; 21 F. R. 323), hearings on proposals to amend these regulations were held in Washington, D. C., beginning December 12, 1955, and in Santurce, Puerto Rico, beginning February 15, 1956, before representatives of the Administrator who were duly authorized to preside at the hearings.

A report and recommendation has been submitted by Assistant Administrator Harry S. Kantor. The report contains an analysis of the evidence and a statement of the considerations entering into his recommendations for changing the salary levels. Copies of the report may be examined by interested persons at each of the regional and field offices of the Wage and Hour Division, United States Department of Labor, as well as at the National Office at 14th and Constitution Avenue N. W., Washington, D. C., during regular business hours.

Pursuant to authority contained in section 13(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (52 Stat. 1060, as amended; 29 U. S. C. 201 et seq.), Reorganization Plan No. 6 of 1950 (3 CFR, 1950 Supp., p. 165), and General Orders Nos. 45-A (15 F. R. 3290) and 85-A (22 F. R. 7614) of the Secretary of Labor, notice is hereby given that the Administrator proposes to amend §§ 541.1(f), 541.2(e), and 541.3(e) of Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations to read as follows:

§ 541.1 *Executive.* * * *

(f) Who is compensated for his services on a salary basis at a rate of not less than $80 per week (or $55 per week if employed in Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands) exclusive of board, lodging, or other facilities: *Provided*, That an employee who is compensated on a salary basis at a rate of not less than $125 per week (exclusive of board, lodging, or other facilities), and whose primary duty consists of the management of the enterprise in which he is employed or of a customarily recognized department or subdivision thereof, and includes the customary and regular direction of the work of two or more other employees therein, shall be deemed to meet all of the requirements of this section.

§ 541.2 *Administrative.* * * *

(e) Who is compensated for his services on a salary or fee basis at a rate or not less than $95 per week (or $70 per week if employed in Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands) exclusive of board, lodging, or other facilities: *Provided*, That an employee who is compensated on a salary or fee basis at a rate of not less than $125 per week (exclusive of board, lodging, or other facilities), and whose primary duty consists of the performance of office or nonmanual field work directly related to management policies or general business operations of his employer or his employer's customers, which includes work requiring the exercise of discretion and independent judgment, shall be deemed to meet all of the requirements of this section.

§ 541.3 *Professional.* * * *

(a) Who is compensated for his services on a salary basis or fee basis at a rate of not less than $95 per week (or $70 a week if employed in Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands) exclusive of board, lodging, or other facilities: *Provided*, That this paragraph shall not apply in the case of an employee who is the holder of a valid license or certificate permitting the practice of law or medicine or any of their branches and who is actually engaged in the practice thereof:

Provided, That an employee who is compensated on a salary or fee basis at a rate of not less than $125 per week (exclusive of board, lodging, or other facilities), and whose primary duty consists of the performance of work either requiring knowledge of an advanced type in a field of science or learning, which includes work requiring the constant exercise of discretion and judgment, or requiring invention, imagination, or talent in a recognized field of artistic endeavor, shall be deemed to meet all of the requirements of this section.

Interested persons may within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice in the *Federal Register* submit in writing to the Acting Administrator, Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Division, United States Department of Labor, Washington 25, D. C., their views and arguments relative to the proposed amendments.

Signed at Washington, D. C., this 1st day of April 1956.

CLARENCE T. LUNDQUIST,
Acting Administrator.

Federal Activities Helpful to Communities

How federal agencies give technical and financial assistance to communities through 45 activities is explained in *Federal Activities Helpful to Communities*, a new publication of the Office of Area Development, U. S. Department of Commerce.

The booklet serves as a checklist by which communities may determine what federal programs and services can be of help in local improvement, in promoting jobs, and in other economic development programs.

Among the forms of assistance listed are some which will aid communities and areas in developing needed public facilities, such as grants for sewage treatment works, interest-free planning advances for non-federal public works, federal loan and procurement aids for small business, technical assistance to aid in community job-development efforts, and special policies providing preferences to labor-surplus areas in the placement of defense contracts and facilities.

The 40-page booklet lists the name of each federal department and agency, with the names of subsidiary offices having jurisdiction for specific programs; a brief description of the nature and purpose of each program; the names and addresses of regional or branch offices; and titles of publications about the federal programs.

Copies of *Federal Activities Helpful to Communities* may be obtained from the Government Printing Office or from Commerce Department field offices for 20 cents each.

Canned Foods Purchased By MSSA From 1957 Pack

Following is a summary of purchases by the Military Subsistence Supply Agency of canned foods from the 1957 pack through March 31, with some items still being purchased on an "as needed" basis:

CANNED FRUITS

	Pounds (*thousands*)	Cases 24/2½
Apples	470	10
Applesauce	5,831	130
Apricots	6,957	155
Blackberries	3,283	73
Blueberries	1,720	38
Cherries, R&P	7,631	170
Cranberry sauce	2,508	56
Figs	2,249	50
Fruit cocktail	7,999	178
Grapefruit	282	6
Peaches	14,283	317
Pears	9,061	201
Pineapple chunks/tidbits	5,642	125
Pineapple, crushed	5,048	112
Pineapple, sliced	4,160	92
Plums	3,139	70

CANNED VEGETABLES

	Pounds (*thousands*)	Cases 24/2
Asparagus	583	19
Beans, Lima	6,975	232
Beans, Snap	8,867	296
Bean sprouts	159	5
Beets	3,064	102
Carrots	2,237	75
Catsup, tomato	21,828	728
Chili sauce	1,725	57
Corn, cream style	4,599	153
Corn, whole grain	11,532	384
Peas	20,246	675
Potatoes, sweet	17,293	576
Pumpkin	1,894	63
Sauerkraut	5,808	194
Spinach	1,125	37
Tomatoes	30,755	1,025
Tomato paste	9,187	306

CANNED JUICES

	Pounds (*thousands*)	Cases 24/2
Apple juice	5,087	170
Grape juice	1,695	56
Grapefruit juice	3,308	110
Orange juice	5,905	197
Pineapple juice	10,698	357
Tomato juice	11,851	395

Canners League of California

Hamilton C. Davis of Walnut Creek Canning Company and Davis Canning Company, was elected president of the Canners League of California at the League's 54th annual meeting. Paul V. Rea of United States Products Corp., Ltd., San Jose, was elected vice president.

Staff officers continued in office were M. A. Clevenger, executive vice president; R. J. Marsh, secretary-treasurer; and E. B. Murphy, assistant secretary.

Cuba's Tariff Schedule

Cuba put the general provisions, tariff nomenclature and general rates of her new tariff into effect March 17, but the new tariff rates do not apply to imports of canned foods from the United States because Cuba's tariff rates on these items are fixed by a trade agreement between the two countries.

Cuba has announced that the general rates of her new tariff will be effective July 31. However, Cuba is obliged to continue the existing rates of duty on items covered in the trade agreement with the United States and rates of duty on such items from the U. S. cannot be increased until after formal trade agreement negotiations between the two countries. It is expected that announcement will be made in the next few months that Cuba and the United States will conduct such negotiations. At that time interested parties may present their views to the U. S. Government with respect to U. S. interests in the negotiations.

Cuban importers are now required to obtain authorization from their government to effect customs clearance of merchandise from the U. S. The purpose of this procedure is to prevent the importation of sizable volumes of goods in advance of tariff increases.

Special Study on Design of Corrugated Boxes

A special study on the design of corrugated fibre boxes, sponsored by the Fibre Box Association, indicates that canned foods receive maximum protection when shipped in boxes that can be closed completely.

The study was initiated by the F.B.A. after it had been found by a brewer, in test shipments, that boxes having a gap between the top outer flaps had apparently rendered satisfactory service, and after the railroads had authorized shipment of canned beer in boxes of that design.

The tests conducted for the Fibre Box Association showed that it is not practical to ship canned foods in boxes with space between the outer flaps. It was found that as the size of the openings increased, boxes became weaker, the cans were more severely damaged, and greater amounts of foreign matter entered the box to soil or stain the cans.

Schedule A, Statistical Classification of Imports

The Bureau of the Census plans to revise its Schedule A, *Statistical Classifications of Commodities Imported into the United States*. The new Schedule A would be effective January 1, 1960.

In making changes, the Bureau announces, consideration will be given to all recommendations on file in the Bureau and to all other recommendations received by July 1 of this year. If users of the import statistics wish to recommend changes in the Schedule, it is urged that they submit their recommendations as soon as possible. In addition to changes recommended by users of the statistics, the Bureau of the Census plans to propose a number of combinations of existing Schedule A commodity classifications.

The Bureau of the Census has consulted with the U.S. Tariff Commission in the revision and consolidation of the U.S. tariff schedules (see INFORMATION LETTER of Feb. 1, page 81) and it may be expected that the Bureau's proposals for import commodity classifications will be consistent, to some extent, with the Tariff Commission proposals for tariff simplification.

Northwest Canners & Freezers

Henry G. Hohwiesner of Starr Foods, Inc., Salem, Ore., was elected president of the Northwest Canners and Freezers Association at the association's annual meeting.

E. I. Pitkin of the Eugene Fruit Growers Association, Eugene, Ore., was elected first vice president, and Milan D. Smith of Smith Canning and Freezing Co., Pendleton, Ore., was elected second vice president.

C. R. Tulley, Portland, Ore., was continued in office as secretary-treasurer, and Thomas B. House, Portland, Ore., was continued as assistant secretary-treasurer.

Costs of Handling Apples

A report on the cost of moving apples into, within, and out of packing and storage plants by various methods has been issued by USDA.

A copy of the report, *Comparative Costs of Handling Apples at Packing and Storage Plants* (Marketing Research Report No. 215), may be obtained from the USDA.

Canned Food Facts Presented in Question-Answer Feature

The forthcoming May issue of *Modern Romances* will feature an educational article about canned foods, presented in the true-false question and answer style. The feature was written by Eleanor Kent, food editor for Dell Publications.

Preprints of this feature are on the presses now and will be mailed to the N.C.A. membership as soon as they are delivered.

The article supplies answers to questions as to how to buy canned foods, when to buy them, how to prepare recipes, how to plan menus, how to cook out of cans, stocking, storing, and other details. It imparts valuable information and corrects some commonly erroneous beliefs about canned foods.

The audience reached by *Modern Romances* is of importance: 1 million young women, with average age of 24½ years, more than 80 percent of whom are married, and have one or more children. The average *Modern Romances* reader runs a household of four on an annual income of $4,335. More than one-third of them spend over $25 a week for food from their average weekly $83 pay check.

McCall's

"Specialties of the South Pacific," a food article in the April issue of *McCall's* magazine, features "delicious dishes stemming from the enchanted islands." The ingredients called for in the recipes are "available in supermarkets from Maine to California," says author Albert Stockli, chef director of New York's famous Hawaiian Room.

Included in the ingredients of the 16 recipes in the article are 30 uses of canned foods. The canned foods used are kidney beans, lingonberries, lemon juice, tomato paste, crabmeat, bean sprouts, pineapple juice, mushrooms, tomato sauce, crushed pineapple, beef gravy, and applesauce.

In *McCall's* short monthly feature on best buys, canned foods are included in the recipes and on the April "best buys" list. The following are on the list: red tart cherries, apricots, asparagus, corn, green beans, peas, spinach, citrus sections, fruit cocktail, peaches, pears, sardines, and tuna. Canned tomato sauce and lemon juice are used in the recipes.

Practical Home Economics

Canned foods are featured in two of the articles in the April issue of *Practical Home Economics*, a magazine for teachers of home economics. It has a circulation of 35,000.

Under the general theme "Teaching Aids in Action," the article "A Lesson In Canned Food Values" tells how Mrs. Ethel Pillar, home economics teacher at Washington-Lee High School in Arlington, Va., presents lessons about canned foods to one of her classes.

"All around the room there was evidence of preparation for the day's lesson," the article begins. "There were bulletin boards, charts, booklets, labels, and canned foods on display throughout the foods area."

The article goes on to tell about the class discussion of label information and can sizes, and says, "We were particularly impressed with the discussion on the use of canned food in the event of local disasters such as floods and hurricanes, and its value and use in case of enemy attack. The students learned how long canned food could be kept, and how well we can be fed nutritionally from canned food. Mention was made of the value of canned foods to our fighting men in time of war.

"All of this was made interesting, vital, and impressive by the teaching aids supplied by the National Canners Association and the canning industry firms of the country. Charts, tables, labels and student reference materials made the answers to important questions easily available and accurate."

As part of the lesson the class demonstrated a spur-of-the moment party meal of canned chili con carne, tossed salad, French bread and cokes.

"During the day's lesson Mrs. Pillar talked about the pleasure and convenience of having canned foods when living in a foreign country. She is the wife of an Army officer, and the mother of two children. The Pillars have just returned from a tour of duty in Germany.

"Both Mrs. Pillar and Arlington's homemaking supervisor, Mrs. Katherine R. Conafay, feel that without the many excellent teaching aids, homemaking teachers could never hope to have such interesting, lively lessons as they do. 'To relate learning to home situations and to family living it is necessary to stimulate interest in lesson activities,' says Mrs. Conafay."

The article is interestingly illustrated with photographs of the students participating in the various activities.

Another article, "Using Fruit In Menu Planning," gives eight recipes using canned fruits in main dishes, salads, and desserts. The article says, "A bright color, a different texture, or a new flavor will often pep up an uninspired recipe. One of the quickest ways to enhance food is by the addition of fruit either as a garnish or an ingredient. Canned fruits are the easiest to use because they are readily available and require no extra preparation. They are uniform in quality and a great variety is offered.

The seven photographs that illustrate the article were supplied by the American Can Company, Cling Peach Advisory Board, Libby, McNeill & Libby, National Canners Association, National Red Cherry Institute, Pineapple Growers Association and United Fruit Company.

Farm Journal

The articles "4 New Sauerkraut Recipes," featuring canned sauerkraut, and "Canned Corn Winners" appear in the April issue of *Farm Journal* magazine.

Roast pork with canned sauerkraut, a favorite recipe from Mrs. Joseph Berg, Licking County, Ohio, a member of the Farm Journal Family Test Group, and three other recipes are given in the article "4 New Sauerkraut Recipes." About the recipes the author, Louise Stiers, associate editor, says, "All are good the year around. But we're suggesting a special for each season. See how refreshing tangy kraut tastes on a warm day." The recipes given are Sauerkraut Slaw, Mrs. Berg's Sauerkraut with Pork, garnished with spiced crabapples, Sauerkraut and Tomatoes, combining canned sauerkraut with canned stewed tomatoes, and Sauerkraut with Apples.

The recipes given in the article "Canned Corn Winners" are the top three at the Corn Cook-Off in Vermilion County, Ill., where 10 contestants, selected from 300, made their favorite corn dishes." Corn with Sour Cream Sauce included canned whole kernel corn and pimiento, Hurry-Up Corn Chowder used canned cream style corn, and Casserole of Corn used whole kernel corn and tomato paste.

The author's description of the recipes is, "They have that old-fashioned sweet, milky corn taste of the treats grandmother used to set proudly on her dinner table. But they are new-fashioned, for you to fix them quickly with handy foods."

Ladies' Home Journal

Canned foods are included in each of the menus for a week and accompanying recipes in the article "Mrs. Wizard that's You," that appears in the April *Ladies' Home Journal* magazine.

The article says that the seven menus, which serve a family of five, can be prepared for less than $25. It goes on to say, "Formula for bounty on a budget. 'Time spent = dollars saved.'" Hints for budget feeding a family include buying "tuna and salmon by the case."

The canned foods used for each day of the week are: Sunday—blackberries, peach halves; Monday—green beans, plums; Tuesday—tuna, peaches, tomatoes, whole kernel corn, tomato paste, ripe olives; Wednesday—baked beans, asparagus; Friday—tuna, salmon, tomatoes, peas; and Saturday—tomato juice, green beans, peas, beef consomme.

The American Weekly

Amy Alden, Food Editor, featured canned foods in her article "Easy Dishes For Teen-Age Cooks" in the April 6 issue of *The American Weekly*, a Sunday magazine of many leading metropolitan newspapers.

The author says, "Anyone who can read can turn out a wonderful dinner —fast!" Canned foods used in the recipe Luncheon Meat Barbecue were tomato sauce, applesauce, luncheon meat; and Fruit Upside Down Cake used sliced pineapple, sliced peaches, or apricot halves. Luncheon Meat Barbecue was shown attractively in a black and white photograph.

Miss Alden also stated, "Remember . . . canned main dishes, vegetables, soups. Heat-and-eat foods, all ready to go. For best results and fresh ideas—read labels carefully before starting."

Nuclear Test Publicity

The newly-revised film strip, "Those Blasted Canned Foods," portraying the results of atomic testing of canned foods and the importance of canned foods in civil defense, prepared by the N.C.A. Laboratories and the Information Division, was shown in March before 40 employees of the Whitson Food Products Co., Denton, Tex. It was also shown to the faculty and 7th and 8th grade students at Westward Grade School in Denton. Arrangements for these showings were made by G. E. Wilhite, food technologist, of the Whitson company.

Decline in Business Activity

Business activity in early 1958 continued its decline from the record volume reached in the third quarter of 1957, according to the Office of Business Economics, U. S. Department of Commerce. While reductions in demand affected most broad segments of the economy, the major impact was in durable goods of both producer and consumer types.

The Commerce review, covering in the main developments through February, noted that consumer buying of nondurable goods and services has been relatively strong. Outlays by state and local governments continue on an upward trend. Federal outlays so far this year have shown little change from the rate in the closing months of 1957, and a higher volume of new order placement for defense purposes has been announced for the first half of 1958. Steps have been taken to accelerate other existing federal programs, and legislative authority has been requested to initiate new income-stimulating projects.

Inventory liquidation, under way on a moderate scale in the final three months of last year, accelerated in January. Manufacturing stocks, as in recent months, showed the largest drop, mostly in durables. At the end of January the book value of manufacturing and trade inventories, at $89.3 billion, was down $1.2 billion since last summer though it was $600 million above a year ago. Total business sales in January were about 7 percent below a year earlier, so that the stock-sales ratio rose correspondingly.

The downward shift in business expansion programs, coupled with continued liquidation of inventories, lowered requirements for working capital and resulted in a more-than-seasonal reduction in bank loans. Additional steps were taken by Federal Reserve authorities to make bank funds more readily available by cutting reserve requirements and reducing further the discount rate.

The flow of income to individuals, an indicator of consumer purchasing power, has moved downward since last summer and in February amounted to $342 billion, on an annual rate basis. This rate was $2 billion lower than in January and 1½ percent below the peak rate of $347.5 billion reached last August. It was 1 percent above a year ago, but the rise in dollar income was more than offset by the increase in prices over the year.

Sales of all retail stores in January and February of this year were below the December rate, with February adversely affected by severe weather conditions over a large area of the country. The number of new passenger cars bought in January and February was roughly one-fourth below the monthly average of the fourth quarter of 1957 and the comparable period a year ago.

Industrial production declined through February and is down about one-tenth since last summer. The durable goods industries are off about 15 percent as compared with more moderate decreases for nondurables and minerals output. The recent adjustments in production followed the general pattern which developed late in 1957. Earlier sharp cutbacks in the metal and metal fabricating industries were extended, and lesser but substantial reductions continued in other durable goods industries as well as in those nondurable goods industries producing mainly for industrial rather than consumer markets. Production of consumer nondurable goods has shown relatively small changes.

Nonagricultural employment was reduced further in February, with total employment lower than a year ago by nearly 1½ million, and unemployment increased more than seasonally.

The general price structure continued firm through February. The consumer price index, at 122.5 percent of the 1947-49 average, was 1 percent above October and 3 percent above a year earlier. A number of groups of commodities and services were higher in February than in December but higher food prices accounted for most of the rise.

Business firms plan to spend $32 billion in 1958, a reduction of 13 percent from the record outlays of $37 billion spent last year. The current downtrend which began in the fourth quarter of 1957 means—aside from lessened on-site construction activity —lower demand for machinery, equipment, and other goods which go to round out new facilities. All industries except public utilities are programing lower investment expenditures this year than in 1957.

Status of Legislation

Agricultural trade development—S. 3420, to raise Title I authorizations from $4 to $7.5 billion and to extend P. L. 480 for two years, to June 30, 1960, was passed by the Senate March 20.

Anti-dumping Act—H. R. 6006, to amend the Anti-dumping Act of 1921 so as to facilitate determinations under the Act, was passed by the House Aug. 29, 1957, and was the subject of hearings by the Senate Finance Committee March 26-27.

CCC equity payments—S. 2426 (Ellender of La.), to authorize CCC to acquire title to unredeemed loan collateral without obligation to make equity payments, is pending before Senate Agriculture Committee, and H. R. 11389 (Bentley of Mich.) is pending before House Agriculture Committee.

Customs drawback—H. R. 9919, to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to extend the privilege of substitution for the purpose of obtaining drawback upon reexportation of all classes of merchandise, was passed by the House Feb. 27.

Farmworkers housing—H. R. 9057, to provide for five-year amortization of housing facilities for farmworkers, was reported by House Ways and Means Committee Aug. 21, 1957.

FDA food additives—H. R. 6747 (Harris of Ark.) and S. 1895 (Hill of Ala.), the Administration-sponsored bill, H. R. 8390 (Harris of Ark.), H. R. 8629 (Wolverton of N. J.) and other food additives bills will be the subject of hearings by the Health and Science Subcommittee of the House Commerce Committee April 15-16. N.C.A. supports H. R. 8390 and H. R. 8629.

ICC agricultural exemption—S. 1689 (Magnuson of Wash.) and H. R. 5823 (Harris of Ark.), to amend the agricultural exemption in sec. 203 (b)(6) of the Interstate Commerce Act, have been introduced.

Marketing orders—H. R. 8367 (Sisk of Calif.) is designed to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to continue marketing orders in effect even after parity is reached. No action scheduled.

Marketing orders, cranberries—S. 1680 (10 Senators from 5 cranberry producing states) and other bills to amend the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act so as to authorize marketing orders for cranberries for canning, were the subject of hearings by a Senate Agriculture Subcommittee April 20, 1957. N.C.A. opposes.

Mexican farm labor—H. R. 10360 (Gathings of Ark.), to extend indefinitely the authority under P. L. 78, 82d Congress, to import Mexican nationals for employment in agriculture, was the subject of hearings by a House Agriculture Subcommittee Feb. 28-March 8, and will be the subject of a further public hearing in June.

Packers and Stockyards Act—S. 1356 (O'Mahoney of Wyo.), to transfer antitrust jurisdiction over meat packing operations from USDA to FTC, was reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee July 18, 1957, and was recommitted to the Senate Agriculture Committee March 25, for a report to the Senate by April 21. The Senate Agriculture Committee and Senate Judiciary Committee will meet together April 16. H. R. 9020, to retain USDA antitrust jurisdiction on exclusive meat packing operations, was reported by House Agriculture Committee July 9, 1957, and H. R. 11234, also relating to antitrust jurisdiction, was reported by House Commerce Committee, with amendment, March 17.

Potato marketing and labeling—A number of bills to prohibit the sale of potatoes of a lower grade than U. S. No. 2, under certain conditions, were the subject of hearings by the House Agriculture Committee and by the Senate Agriculture Committee in 1957. N.C.A. opposes application to canning.

Premerger notification—H. R. 7698 (Celler of N. Y.), to require 60 days notice prior to merger of corporations having total book value of more than $10 million, was reported by House Judiciary Committee May 28, 1957. S. 198 was the subject of hearings by the Senate Antitrust Monopoly Subcommittee April 1-2.

Raw product bargaining—S. 1743 and S. 2444 (Aiken), to legalize organized bargaining for agricultural commodities under certain conditions, has been referred to Senate Agriculture Committee; and H. R. 6799 (Bow of Ohio) and H. R. 7807 (Bentley of Mich.) have been referred to House Judiciary Committee. No action scheduled.

Robinson-Patman Act—S. 11 (Kefauver of Tenn.) and H. R. 11 (Patman of Tex.), to restrict the good faith defense against a charge of price discrimination, was approved without recommendation, by Senate Antitrust Subcommittee June 21, 1957, and is pending before the Judiciary Committee.

Trade Agreements Act—H.R. 10368 (Mills of Ark.), to amend and extend the Trade Agreements Act, was the subject of hearings begun by the House Ways and Means Committee Feb. 17-March 25.

Wage-Hour—S. 1853 (Kennedy of Mass.), which includes proposal to eliminate overtime fishery exemption, was approved, without recommendation, by Senate Labor Subcommittee May 7, 1957.

Waste disposal—H. R. 1082 (Byrnes of Wis.), H. R. 2463 (Lipscomb of Calif.), and H. R. 4234 (Simpson of Pa.), to allow rapid amortization of waste disposal facilities and treatment works, have been introduced. N.C.A. supports the proposal, which is before House Ways and Means Committee.

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